

**Annals of the DeRosset Family
as compiled from original documents by
Catherine DeRosset Meares
1906**



Part A: Pages 1 - 33 of a total of 91

*Scanned from a copy of the book in the possession of
James Bailey deRosset of Asheville, North Carolina, 2012*

ANNALS
OF
The DeRosset Family

Huguenot Immigrants to the Province of North Carolina
Early in the Eighteenth Century

COMPILED FROM ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS BY
CATHERINE DEROSSET MEARES



"Go call thy sons! Instruct them what a debt
They owe their ancestors, and make them swear
To pay it, by transmitting down entire
The sacred heritage to which themselves were born.

[1906]

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To the revered memory of a long line of worthy ancestry these pages are inscribed by one of their descendants, who has a worthy pride in the record of exalted piety and steadfast faith, of public service and private virtues which they have left for the imitation of generations yet to come.



FOREWORD

In offering to the DeRossets of my own and future generations this memorial of our forefathers, I do not claim for it any literary merit, nor do I invoke either criticism or indulgence. It is simply an effort to preserve in permanent form some records of the olden time, which were laid aside long ago for safe-keeping, and were forgotten or neglected as the years passed on.

After my father's death, in 1897, the old house, which in its century of existence had sheltered six generations, was to pass out of the family. These papers were found and brought from their hidden recesses, and as a labor of love I undertook the task, which has proved a solace and comfort in times of sorrow and loneliness.

It may be thought that I have gone too far into historical detail—familiar to our elders, it is true; but my hope is to interest our young people in the story of their ancestors, and thereby to inspire them with a love of general historical study and research.

It may be pertinent to state that a short time ago some of the documents herein contained were, by permission, printed in the magazine of the University of North Carolina (*The Jas. Sprunt Historical Monograph*, No. IV.), under the title of "The DeRosset Papers." They aroused unlooked-for interest and called forth many requests that have induced this publication. C. DER. MEARES.

INTRODUCTORY

"The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God."
"Their names shall be had in everlasting remembrance."

A daughter of an ancient, honorable house, who, standing on the threshold of a new century, pauses for a backward glance down the vista of past years, finds an inviting field of retrospect and research ever widening before her.

In mental vision she sees a stately procession of dames and sires, whose names have been made familiar to her in the oft-told tales of later generations. Imagination would weave around them many a romance of love and devotion, of chivalry and heroism, but the bare facts of their story have a sufficient charm of their own, which, illumined with vivid reality by the flash-lights of legend and tradition, makes truth seem to her more interesting, if not more strange, than fiction. The ties of kindred are drawn closer by the simple act of Remembrance, and at its tender touch a fresh sensation is born within her, kindling the desire to perpetuate their memory as her heart echoes the words of Solomon the wise,

"The glory of children are their Fathers."

* * * * *

The principle of reverence for ancestors seems to be implanted in the human heart. Men in all ages and in all lands have manifested it. In some form or other it was embodied in all the ancient myths and religions, and the Oriental Nations still maintain it in their systems of ancestral worship. The thoughtful philosopher of old, groping in the darkness of a hopeless future, asking "whither am I going?" turned with scarce less earnestness to the dim past for a solution of the counter-mystery, "whence came I, and my fathers before me?"

It has been reverently remarked that there was one point of human pride and greatness that even our Lord in His humanity did not disdain—His illustrious lineage! Emptied of His Divine glory, and taking upon Himself the form of a servant, choosing for His earthly abode the home of a village carpenter, and for His Virgin-Mother, a lowly maid of Nazareth, yet it was divinely ordered that that most blessed among women, should, for her Christ-Child, claim descent through a long line of Israel's Kings, that so *her* Son might be known to the world. He came to save as "the Son of David, the King," the Son of "Abraham, the Friend of God."

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With such precedent and example, what wonder is it that *we* should love to search the records of the past and recall the noble characters whose worthy deeds have bequeathed to us the heritage of "a good name, which is better than great riches!" Well may the hearts of each successive generation thrill with the enthusiasm of reverent love and pride, and be stimulated to imitate the virtues and emulate the good works of those who have "gone before."

In the last half-century there has been a remarkable awakening of interest in genealogical research. Societies have been organized whose avowed object is to preserve the memory of ancestors, to collect data concerning their genealogy and history, and to perpetuate the part they took in the founding and upbuilding of the New World. Coming to its shores from every enlightened nation, these immigrants found generous welcome and secure refuge, and well did they reward her fostering care by bringing to our fair land all that was noble and best of the Old World's civilizations.

Of all classes of men who have helped to make this nation, none can boast a prouder ancestry than the descendants of those French Huguenots, who for many weary years suffered persecution for conscience's sake; who with steadfast faith and patient heroism "endured grief, suffering wrongfully;" who fought valiantly for the Truth as God revealed it to them, and who, when Hope had sunk into Despair, abandoned worldly honors and possessions and fled from kindred and country to make new homes among strangers in a far-off land and to do their parts as worthy citizens of the "Land of the Free." History tells that the story of Huguenot endurance is among the most heroic and remarkable records of religious persecution, and that their noble qualities of heart and mind, purified and strengthened by affliction, assured for them glad welcome and made them a blessing and honor to every home of their adoption.

Holding in reverent love the honored name of one of those Huguenot refugees, I deem it due to his memory that his descendants should possess such records of the past as are still extant. The "moth and rust" of Time are fast doing their destructive work upon the old documents, and all that remain are necessarily held in safe-keeping and are not available for frequent reference. Therefore, failing one better fitted for the work, and deeply feeling my inability to do it justice, I make this attempt to compile the existing records for the benefit of those of this and later generations who may feel interested in them; earnestly hoping that in years to come my imperfect tribute to the memory of our forefathers may be revised and improved upon by some later scion of the good old family of DEROSSET.

C. DER. M.

Wilmington, N. C., 1906.

PART I
The Early Records

CHAPTER I.

Ancient Genealogical Lines.

"He who has no ancestors thinks but little of it, but he who has rejoices in it."

In the public "Acts" of the Southeastern Provinces of France the deRosset name is variously written deRozet, deRosset, deRouzet, deRousset, &c., but most frequently in its present form; always, however, ending in "et" it was pronounced *deRossay*, never as now, as though spelled "ette." It was a numerous family, with ramifications in various localities. Records of three distinct branches exist, each of which bears internal evidence of relationship to the two others, showing conclusively that they were all from a common stock, though the origin of the family is lost in the darkness and turmoil of mediæval ages. All that we know of its early history we owe to the untiring interest and research of my brother, the late Louis H. deRosset (1840-1875). Residing in England for several years after the close of the War Between the States, the opportunity was offered him of searching into the Government records and those of the French Huguenot Church in London, and also for a visit to the south of France to examine the State papers in the archives of several cities where our ancestors had resided. Louis was a good French scholar and, though his time was limited, the discoveries he made proved to be of great interest and value, and encourage the hope that future research may bring to light other documents of still greater importance. Copies were made (and attested officially) of records at Montpellier, Avignon and elsewhere, and memoranda taken of detached items wherever our name, or names of other families connected with ours, were found. These documents give undoubted proof of the high social rank of the deRossets for many centuries and establish beyond dispute *our* claim to be of the same blood. Tradition had taught us that we were of Swiss origin, and again that we were of French descent, both of which statements are substantiated by these papers, and their discrepancy explained.

Of these the most interesting to us is copied from "L'Histoire de la Noblesse de Languedoc," the home of our immediate ancestors.

deRosset in Provence.

Translation.—"An ancient manuscript in the archives of Arles relates that the deRosset family is originally from Switzerland; and that *Nicolas* (or

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'Coulet') *deRosset*, who is the first of whom we know anything, left that country in the fourteenth century with the other 'gentlemen' who were faithful to the house of Austria, when the Swiss 'threw off the foreign yoke.' Nicolas came at first to dwell at Lyons, from there to Toulon, then to Arles and finally to Salon, where *Amedée* (1), *Bertrand* (1), *Amedée* (2), and *Bertrand* (2), his descendants, carried on an honorable commerce in order to repair the losses that Nicolas, their ancestor, had incurred in leaving the great possessions he had held in the Swiss Cantons.

"*Antoine deRosset*, son of *Bertrand* (2), and another Antoine, his first cousin, applied to Francis I. for letters of rehabilitation of their nobility, which were granted to them by that King, February 13, 1515, 'Propter antiquam nobilitatem,' and those same letters, which are registered at Aix, in the *Chambre des Comtes* (*Regître Piscis*), also tell that Antoine inherited all the property of his cousin, and left by Marie de Bellis (his first wife) one daughter, of whom nothing is known.

"*Antoine* married (2d) *Antoinette de Silvy*, mother of *Gaspard* (1), who succeeded, and of several other sons, who died in the service of the King during the wars of the League.

"*Gaspard* (1) was Governor of the Chateau de Vernègues, and had by Jeanne de Damian-Vernègues (1) Thomas, (2) Mathieu, an officer in the troops of the Republic of Venice, and (3) Charles, Lieut.-Col. of the Regiment of Provence and Commandant of the Fortress of Salçes, in 1631.* The following year he defended the Chateau de Beaucaire against the Duke de Montmorenci, 'who dared not attack it, knowing his valor.' The King in recompense of his services created him in 1647 Field Marshal of his Armies, and in 1648 he was entrusted with the command of the coasts of Provence from Toulon to Antibes. The Queen Mother thanked him for the zeal he had shown for the welfare and tranquility of the State, by a letter which is preserved in the original among the archives of the family.

"*Thomas deRosset*, Co-Seigneur d'Aurone, married *Blanche deRenaud* (des Seigneurs d'Aleric), as per contract of 1600, and left (1) *Gaspard* 2d, who succeeded (2) Charles (received Knight of Malta in 1640), and was Capt. of

*Salçes was one of the most important of the frontier fortresses of France, the command of which was an honor eagerly sought by military men of rank. Situated at the foot of the Pyrenees near the Mediterranean, it guarded the entrance to the little Kingdom of Roussillon, and was called "the Key of Spain" on the side of Catalonia. In the long continued wars between France and Spain its possession was of the greatest importance to both nations, who alternately besieged and held it.

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Cavalry in the regiment of Gassion, afterwards an exempt of the body-guard, and died in 1680, after having been given a 'Commandery.'

"(3) *André* (received Knight at the same time as his brother) died during the wars of the Piedmont. (4 and 5) Marie and Marthe deRosset, who married into the houses of deCordes and deDamian.

"*Gaspard* (2) married Catherine de Milamy, and had by her, among other children, Charles and Blanche; the latter also married into the family deCordes.

"*Charles* married, in 1686, Madeleine deTorenc, by whom he had (1) Francois, (2) Louis and (3) Antoine. The last two died Captains in the Regiment of Taillard. Charles was maintained in his nobility by judgment of M. le Bret in 1705.

"*François*, after having served as Captain in the same regiment for thirty-five years, was 'retired' at Senas in 1740, with a pension from the King, under the Cross of St. Louis, and married in 1743 Claire de Faudron, daughter of 'the noble André Joseph de Faudron, Seigneur de Taillades.' "

The above has this endorsement:

Copie de Artefeuille.—Histoire de la Noblesse de Provence, 2 tom., pp. 339, &c., Avignon, 1776.

DE ROZET.

Seigneurs et Barons de la Garde en Calvere et en Quercy.

Coat of Arms.

"D'Azure a un Lion d'or rampant armé; couronne et langue de gueule, tenant dans les pattes de devant une Hache d'armes aussi d'or, le manche en bas."

Translation.—"The house deRozet, distinguished for military services, whose name is in the 'Acts' indifferently written deRozet, deRouzet, deRoset, deRousset and deRosset, is without doubt one of the oldest of Quercy.* The original titles which they produce are of sufficient proof, notwithstanding that the line cannot be traced certainly beyond the middle of the fourteenth century. The Chateau de la Garde, which from time immemorial belonged to the MM. deRozet, was taken and pillaged during the civil wars by judgment of the Sénéchal deLauzerte, January 10, 1640, which misfortune takes it out of their

*Quercy and Rouergue were neighboring Countships in the Duchy of Aquitaine. The chief town of Quercy was Cahors, that of Rouergue was Rhodéz. The whole was then a part of Languedoc. In the thirteenth century they lapsed to the Crown and their names can now only be found in an ancient atlas or history. (Encyclopædia Britannica. "Toulouse.")

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power, in common with other houses reputed the most ancient, to trace a longer line."

The historian, La Faille, in his "Traité de la Noblesse des Capitouls de Toulouse"† (1707), pp. 106, &c., also places this house among the most ancient of Quercy. "The Rozets," he says, "Seigneurs de la Garde and of other properties in Quercy, very old 'gentlemen,' were, by report of the historians of the first Crusade (1096), among the lords who made the passage across the sea. Their principal wealth descended through a daughter in the family of the old Barons de Sux (or Suzech), to whom succeeded the Counts de Rastignac." Some detached memoranda of this branch will be found interesting.

"In 1263, one Segui deRozet, assisted at an 'Act.'"

"In 1271, Messire G. deRozet, Chevalier, in his will requests to be buried in the cemetery of Ste. Marie de Lauzerte. He leaves to his wife (la Dame Guilharde, 8000 'fols de Cahors,' 'being the dowry received with her.' Their children are mentioned: (1) Segui, (2) Andrait, married Jean Puzel, (3) Armande, (4) Finas, (5) Philippe, and (6) Guiscarde. All are daughters except the first, Segui, who in 1260 married and had issue, (1) Arnaud, (2) Fabre, (3) Bertrand, (4) Faure, (5) François (Arch Priest).

"In 1279, Bd. deRozet made his will, leaving as sole heir Arnaud deRozet—probably his nephew—who married Dame Martiné. She afterwards married le noblehomme Messire B. de St. Geniez, Chevalier, &c.

"In 1689, *Pierre* deRozet married Marie de la Boissière, and had issue, Joseph, Arnaud and others." But these bring us to a date more recent than the Revocation and, therefore, the record has no further interest for us.

Two items, however, should be noticed as referring to Protestant members of the family prior to the Revocation.

"In 1614, *Paul* deRousset, Sgr. de Cluzeau, m. the dau. of Francois d'Alzac and Anne de Seyrat." The place is not mentioned, but the record says "*they are Protestants.*"

October 28, 1645, *Pierre* de Rousset, Sgr. d'Elcasse, m. Marguerite de Toulouse, dau. of the Marquis de Toulouse-Lantrec, Sgr. de St. Geniez, Baron de Cesterols and Sénéchal de Castres, "*one of the strongest Protestants.*"

†Toulouse had twelve Capitularies or Consuls. Early in the fourteenth century they took the name of "domini de capitulo;" a little later, that of "capitulum nobilium." In the sixteenth century, by a false derivation, the ancient "domini de capitulo" was changed into the modern "Capitouls."

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DE ROSSET DE FLEURY.

Coat of Arms.

Écartelé au premier d'argent à un bouquet de trois roses de gueule, la tige et les feuilles d'or, qui est "deRosset."

au deuxime, de gueule, au lion d'or, qui est "deLasset."

au troieme écartelé d'argent et de sable, qui est "de la Tude."

au quatrieme d'azur à trois roses dechiquier d'or, qui est de "Rocozel."

sur la tout d'azur à trois roses d'or, qui est "de Fleury."

This document is translated from "de la Roque Noblesse de Languedoc." Montpellier; Felix Seguin, Libraire-Editeur, 1160, pp. 449-451, No. 482. It was obtained through the Count d'Aragon and by the courtesy of M. Marzials, pastor of the French Huguenot Church in London, was loaned to Louis H. deRosset, January 30, 1866, and copied by himself.

The house deRosset is originally from Rouergue. The first known founder is *Philippe deRosset*, Sgr. and Baron de Monpaon, Duc de Vabres, who married about 1400 Marguerite deRoquefeuil.

Philippe (2) m. first, Elizabeth de Prémillac, and second, Perronne de Pavie, and had issue, (1) *Pierre I.*, Sgr. de la Vallette and Co-Sgr. de Soubez, who married Blaïde de Tranquier. From this marriage was born *Pierre* (2), who was the founder of the line proven before M. deBezons (d'Hozier J. R. 471).

Pierre deRosset (2) Sgr. de Brignac de la Vernède, m. November 6, 1504, *Isabelle deLasset*. Issue: (1) *Pierre*, who followed (2) *Thomas*, and (3) *Etienne*, Minister of the Church in Lodève.

Pierre deRosset (3) Sgr. de Brignac de la Vernède and de Gorgas, m. Marguerite de Chavagnac. Issue: (1) *Michel*, who m. December 9, 1550, *Gabrielle deGep*, (2) *Jean*, who succeeded, (3) *Etienne*, (4) *Jacquette*, (5) *Françoise*, (6) *Perronne*.

Jean deRosset, Equerry, Sgr. de Gorgas and de la Vernède, Capt. commanding a company of warriors (1591), m. March 3, 1567, *Etienne* de Vissec de la Tude. Had issue: (1) *François*, who succeeded (2) *Souveraine*, who m. *Arnaud deNeffies*, (3) *Angèle*, who m. *Elie de Soumaître*, (4) *Marquise*, who m. *François deCannac*.

François deRosset, Sgr. de Gorgas and de la Vernède, m. July 25, 1598, *Catherine deRocozel*, heiress of her house, had many children, of whom *Jean* deRosset, Sgr. de Ceilhes, de Gorgas, de la Vernède and de Rocozel, "Homme d'armes" in the company of Sgr. d'Arpajon, assisted at the siege of Salçes in Roussillon; m. August 11, 1636, *Anne de Paschal de Saint Juéry*. Issue: (1)

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Jean Louis, Minister of the Church in Lodève, Arch Deacon of St. Fulcrand, (2) Bernardin, who succeeded, (3) Guillaume, (4) François, (5) Catherine, who m. Pons de la Treille, (6, 7 and 8) Antoinette, Marie and Jeanne, Ursuline nuns at Lodève.

Bernardin deRosset, Sgr. de Ceilhes, de Rocozel, de Bonloc, de Gorgas and de la Vernède (maintained in his nobility with his father by royal decree of August 29, 1669), m. January 24, 1680, Marie de Fleury—sister of the Cardinal. Issue: (1) Jean Hercule, who succeeded, (2) Henri, Minister of the Church in Lodève, (3) Pons, Governor of Soumières (1729), Lieut.-Gen. of the King's Armies (1734), Governor of Roussillon (1736), Grand Cross of the Order of St. Louis (1737), (4) Philippe Antoine, (5, 6, 7) Marie, Helen and Anne, (8) Marguerite, who m. June 28, 1797, Jean Baptiste de Fleury, Capt. in the Queen's Regiment.

The record is continued to 1815, when the direct line of deRosset de Fleury became extinct by the death, in Paris, of André Hercule, who left no issue.

Cardinal de Fleury was a native of Lodève. His eminent position in Church and State enabled him to advance the interests of his sister's family. As the record relates: "La Maison deRosset ayant hérité de la faveur accordée au Cardinal;" his nephew, Jean Hercule deRosset, in 1730, obtained the changing of the Barony of Perpignan, in Languedoc, into a Dukedom, under the name de Fleury. The coat of arms we have described is not of de Fleury, but of deRosset—the quarterings being all of families allied to that of deRosset prior to the marriage of Bernadin deRosset and Marie de Fleury (1680).

As this marriage took place only five years before the Revocation and the exile of our ancestor, we claim no inheritance of de Fleury blood, though it is said that the "Pierre" who founded this line was also the founder of our branch of the family. The spelling of the name is identical with our own, which increases the probability of the statement.

We must bear in mind the historical fact that the bitter hatred of the Protestants required all traces of them to be obliterated. Their very names were blotted out, their estates confiscated, marriages annulled and children declared illegitimate. As late as 1866, my brother found it impossible to induce the people to talk of the Huguenots and their times.

He visited, among other cities, Uzès, Nîmes, Montpellier, Cette, Avignon, Narbonne and Bordeaux, and found it the same everywhere.

It will be observed that many sons of the deRosset de Fleury line were abbots and ministers of the Church of Rome, and that numerous of their maidens lived and died nuns in the Convents of Lodève.

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Still another and more illustrious line, in which the name deRosset appears, was found by my brother Louis. It is that of St. Louis, Roi de France (1226-1270), who by Marguerite de Provence had many descendants. Their oldest son, Robert of France, Comte de Clermont (d. 1317), m. Beatrix de Bourgoyne Dame de Bourbon, from whom came the Bourbon Kings, who in 1593, in the person of Henry IV (of Navarre), ascended the throne. Among the names of distinguished men who married daughters of this line (the Dukes of Savoie and de Montmorenci, the Count de la Marche, &c.), is found that of Georges deRosset, Sgr. de Saint Sauveur—his daughter, Laure deRosset de St. Sauveur, m. Gabriel, Sgr. de Chateau Blanc, and their daughter, Diane de Chateau Blanc., m. Charles de Vissec, Marquis de Gorgas, &c.

My purpose in transcribing all these, apparently useless, papers, is both to preserve in their entirety my brother's notes and memoranda, which may some day be valuable, and also as sufficient proofs of the nobility and social standing of the deRosset family in their native land.

But, after all, interesting though they are, they do not give us the missing link which would prove for us a direct genealogical line through all those centuries.

CHAPTER II.

The Old Documents.

In 1840, Wilmington was visited by a disastrous conflagration, which destroyed much of the business portion of the town, including my grand-father's office, where were stored the old French Bible, containing dates of births, marriages, deaths, &c., important family records, and priceless memorials brought to this country by our refugee ancestor. By some happy chance a few French papers were not among them, and from those that remain, together with traditions handed down by several successive long-lived generations, we get a fair outline of our family history for some 300 years. Of these extant papers the oldest is known as

"The Mathieu Document."

It is inscribed on parchment (of asses' skin), in elaborate chirography, with characters so minute and contractions so numerous, that the efforts of the best French scholars never were successful in deciphering it. Only the name "Mathieu Rosset" could be distinguished. So its purport remained a mystery for many generations, until in 1898 I determined, if possible, to find an expert who could interpret and translate it. At Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., I met in the Assistant Librarian, Mr. Melvin Brandow, the man I had been seeking, and I record his name here, as a small but grateful tribute to his kindness and courtesy as well as to his success. It proved to be the official appointment of Mathieu Rosset as Secretary in Ordinary to the Duc d'Anjou. As it must remain unintelligible to any but an expert, it may be interesting to point out some of its notable points, that we may get a taste of its historic flavor.

The Duke d'Anjou was the youngest of the four sons of Henri II. and Catherine de Medici. The three oldest reigned successively Kings of France, viz: Francis II., Charles IX. and Henry III., the last of whom was still on the throne, fulfilling his destiny as the last of the Valois, and the weakest and most ignoble of Kings. These all died childless, and if Anjou had outlived his brother, he, too, would have reigned.

The Queen-Mother used all her arts to bring about the marriage of the heir presumptive to Elizabeth of England, but without avail. He was weak and vacillating and at one time openly espoused the cause of the Protestants and

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Henry of Navarre, but was brought back to his allegiance through the mediation of his mother and the tempting offer of the Dukedom of Anjou, a higher dignity than that of d'Alençon which he held.

The appointment of Mathieu is made, May 18th, 1581, through Christoffe de Thou, Councillor of State and first President of the Parliament of Paris. He was the father of Jacques de Thou, Royal Librarian and famous as the great Latin historian of his time.

The document bears the autograph "François"—he is called "Son of France and only brother of the King"—and it is "Given at Alençon," &c. On the reverse is this endorsement, "On July 10th following, 1582, Mathieu deRosset took the required oath and entered upon the duties of his office with all its favors, privileges, rights, &c., &c."

THE REVOCATION OF THE EDICT OF NANTES.

May 2, 1685.

"God sifted a whole nation that He might send choice seed into this wilderness."

When Louis XIV. (1643-1715) signed the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, he little knew what a blessing he was bestowing upon other nations at the expense of his own fair realm. It was the virtual banishment of 50,000 families of the best blood of the kingdom. It was no mob of the commune, no motley crowd of the offscouring of the people, that were driven from their homes; but a vast throng of peaceable, industrious citizens of every degree; skilled artisans, manufacturers and agriculturists; men of military renown; distinguished men of letters, art and science; families of culture and refinement, who planted in every land of their refuge the good seed of a fresh, wholesome and vigorous civilization.

The Huguenot movement did not begin among the poor unlettered class, but among the noble, learned and distinguished of the Provinces. The cruelties of persecution weighed heavily upon those of the South, for they were the strongholds of the "diabolical faith." The leaders of "the new religion" were men of rank and political and military distinction. Among them were the illustrious princes and statesmen of the house of Condé; the wise and good Duke de Sully; the great Marshal Turenne; the pure and pious Admiral Gaspard de Coligny, the immortal proto-martyr of St. Bartholemew's Eve; the renowned warrior, Frederick Armand, Duke de Schomberg, and others of the same type. Their clergy were learned, eloquent, zealous and pious; their followers were brave and courageous, consecrated to their cause and ready to die in its defense. Prince and peasant alike rallied around the white plume of Navarre, and the standards

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of other leaders, to fight the good fight of a true Faith against ecclesiastical tyranny and political despotism; for political antagonism and ambition, rather than religious zeal, was the real motive power of all that warfare and persecution. Edicts and counter-edicts were promulgated to suit the temper, or to advance the interests and ambitious designs of the reigning King and his sycophants.

The Edict of Nantes, issued by Henry IV., April 15, 1598, was but a hollow truce, continually broken by massacres and unjust impositions, though it continued nominally in force for eighty-seven years, when the "Revocation" was sent forth to publish to the world the shame and dishonor of a great and powerful nation. The evil influence behind the throne in bringing about this infamy was Louvois le Tellier, "the evil genius of France"—"Louvois le Terrible, whom all men hated," yet "the greatest war minister of history." His cruelty inaugurated the fearful Dragonnades, and his work was followed up so unsparingly by persecution and banishment, that the year 1685 came to be fitly called "the era of the depopulation of France." The danger menacing the nation was met by a decree forbidding emigration under heavy penalties, and the poor hunted victims were forced to live in utter seclusion in their homes, or driven into dens and caves of the earth.

Among those who left France immediately after the Revocation was Louis deRousset. It does not appear that any other members of his family went with him into exile, which constrains us to believe that *as a family* the deRossets were not Protestants. Louis writes, in an extant letter: "I left France because I would not be made a Papist of"—implying that family pressure may have striven to keep him in the Roman obedience.

His wife's family were Protestants, but his parents died before his marriage, and we know not whether they were of the "new" faith, or whether his conversion was due to the influence of his wife and her people.

It would naturally be supposed that among so numerous a family others of his kindred, if of the same faith, would have accompanied the lonely exile. But history tells us that families were divided one against another then, as in all times of civil and religious wars. Separation from those we love is one of the bitterest of the trials of the sufferer for conscience sake.

Paris Roy
e collator
1578

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LOUIS DEROUSSET.

1645*-1725.

The Huguenot Exile.

Louis deRousset, born (approximately) in 1645, was the son of Louis deRousset, Docteur en Droits, and the Lady Catherine de Moynier, de la Ville d'Uzès. He married (by contract of February 10th, 1671) the Lady Gabrielle de Gondin, also of la Ville d'Uzès, daughter of the late Philippe de Gondin and Lady Anne de Fontfroide. The said Anne de Fontfroide was the daughter of Maître Antoine de Fontfroide, Treasurer of the King's domain in the Sénéchaussée de Nîmes, and the Lady Catherine de Cassagnes.

We learn these facts from the original marriage contract, which is still in possession of the family. In it Louis is called "Nobilissimus" and also "Capitaine;" he could hardly have been less than twenty-five years of age at that time.

This document is of exceeding value and interest, being the only source of information of the facts just related.

It tells that the marriage of the said Sieur deRousset and Gabrielle de Gondin was "ordained for the glory of God and for the increase of the human race," that it was to be solemnized in the afternoon, in the so-called ("pretendue") Reformed Church of which they are both professors; and that "the banns should be published according to the prescribed order of that Church." Then follows the pre-nuptial settlement, upon Gabrielle and her children, of certain properties and monies given to her as dowry by her grandmother de Cassagnes, who seems to have been the fairy godmother of the young couple. So they set out on life's voyage with every prospect of happiness and prosperity; enjoying advantages of social rank, refined society and surroundings, and endowed with wealth suitable to their station.

But the demands of military service were exacting, allowing little time for domestic peace and quiet. Already a Captain, he was doubtless soon called back to his post of duty, and three years later, February 18, 1674, we hear of him in the Regiment of Navarre as Captain of a company of Lancers (see his Commission, signed Louis). Tradition tells that during his long absence from home—perhaps twenty years—his wife became totally blind. When again re-united, she refused to recognize the husband whom she had so long mourned as dead,

All dates marked with an asterisk are approximate.

ANNALS OF THE DEROSSET FAMILY

until touching on the tip of his ear a hairy mole, her doubts vanished, and with excess of joyful recognition, she fell fainting in his arms.

In 1676, a friendly letter from Cardinal de Beusy is addressed to him at Pynerol Savoy; and in 1677 he writes that he "went to Sicily." These letters are extant, and though only detached items, are indicative of continuous service and absence from home.

At length, May 2d, 1685, came the Revocation, and Capt. deRousset's exile. With many of his brother-officers, he fled to Holland. Commissioned by the government he joined the forces of William and Mary to fight in Ireland the battles of Protestant succession for England, and fortunately was assigned to the command of his old French General, Frederic Armand, Duc de Schomberg, himself a Protestant exile.*

A passport has been preserved, dated Lisburne, January 16th, 1689, and signed by the great Schomberg—whose autograph lends interest and value to the document—giving leave of absence for the benefit of his health. With hundreds of others of the army, he had suffered from fever in the marshes of Dundalk, after the siege of Carrickfergus, in 1689, when nearly half of Schomberg's command died.

The famous battle of the Boyne was fought July 1st, of the same year, 1690. Here the noble, the good, the brave, Schomberg was killed. We can hardly estimate the grief of our Captain at the loss of his beloved friend and general.

In the family archives is preserved an autographical letter from Frederic, Duc de Saxe, dated February 11th, 1702—a personal friendly letter, which, with others from men of high degree, shows how highly Capt. deRosset was regarded by the great men of the period.

The numerous French names mentioned in these papers tell how largely the army of Protestant England was recruited by Huguenot refugees who followed their brave old general.

Nothing more is known to us of the military life and service of Capt. deRosset. It would be interesting to some future one of his name to search into the Army records of England if perchance further information might be obtained.

At Doctors Commons, in the "Private Acts" (II. Anne, Act II.), is this record,

*Frederic Armand, Duke of Schomberg, after winning celebrity in the Armies of France, became Minister of State, under the Elector of Brandenburg. He then took service under William III. of England, was created a peer, made Knight of the Garter, and obtained a grant of £100,000. Was killed at the Battle of the Boyne, July 1, 1690. Lisburne is in Ireland, about ten miles southwest of Belfast. The name of Dr. Armand deRosset suggests a possible relationship between his family and that of the Duke.

William & Mary by the grace of God King & Queen of England Scotland France & Ireland
Defenders of the Faith &c. To Our Trusty & Wellbelov'd Louis de Rolloe Esq. Greeting We
expressing especial Trust & Confidence in your Loyalty Courage & good Conduct. Do by these presents
constitute & appoint you to be Captain of that Company of Foot of gentlemen
La Nouvelle - the Captain in the Regiment of Foot commanded by Our Trusty & Wellbelov'd Colonel

de la Caillonnelle. You are therefore to take the said Company into your Charge and
Charge and duly to Exercise as well the Officers as Soldiers thereof in Arms And to use your best
endeavours to keep them in good Order & discipline and well Drilled. Command them to Obey you
there

Colonel and you to Obey & follow such Orders & directions from time to time as
you shall receive from Us, your Colonels or any your Superior Officer according to the Rules and
Discipline of War in pursuance of the best We hereby report in you. Given at Our Court the
Day of April 1689 in the first year of Our Reigne.

By His Maj. Command
Shewbury

ANNALS OF THE DEROSSET FAMILY

"In 1708, Louis deRosset, Peter Brozet and others were naturalized." And still another, "In April 1725, Administration of goods &c of Ludovicus deRosset was granted." These could hardly have been any other than our ancestor, and we do not hesitate to accept the year 1725 as the date of his death.

At some period of his exile Capt. deRosset writes a statement which he calls "Memoirs pour mes affaires de France." Only a fragment remains—neither dated nor addressed—but it is interesting as throwing light upon some points of his history.

Beginning with his departure from France, he continues, "I left because I would not be made a Papist of." He mentions three estates he owns near Uzès and Nîmes, viz: (1) Perignan, inherited from his father's sister, "my Aunt La Niguiere de Janin," jointly with his Cousin deRosset de Montpellier; (2) "La Croix Monau," which, by his marriage contract, was settled upon his children and could not be sold, and (3) The "De la Croix" estate, which came to him by decree of the Court of Nîmes, after a lawsuit he had instituted against a fraudulent debtor, one Buliod, the suit being decided in his (deRosset's) favor; he enjoyed possession of it for four years before he left France, and his wife also held it three years after, when the "perfidious thief" Fourneyron seized and now holds it as his own, saying that "I gave it to him!" "He deprived my mother-in-law (Mme. de Gondin) of it, and now it is necessary to demand of him the deeds and rental of said land since the year 1688, less what he can prove to have legitimately expended upon it." Fourneyron, his "man of business," had also been his "guardian during his minority." He is clearly proved to have been both treacherous and dishonest in all his dealings with him.

The mention of his mother-in-law alone being dispossessed of the estate indicates that his wife, Gabrielle, may have died before the time he wrote, or that, leaving her mother at their old home, she may have by this time joined him in England. He speaks of her as his only wife, and of her child, Armand, as his only son.

Whether any of his kindred were with him at the time of his death, we do not know. But we believe that in the year 1725, "the strong, heroic spirit passed away" and "God gave to His beloved sleep." May he rest in peace in his unknown grave, till Christ Himself shall call him to the eternal rest promised to those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake!

CHAPTER III.

ARMAND JOHN DEROSSET, M. D.

1695*-1760.

"The Father's love that led them through the past
At length in this good land their lot hath cast."

DR. ARMAND JOHN DEROSSET (1) (1695*-1760) my great-great-grandfather, was the Huguenot immigrant and founder of the American family of his name. He was the only son of the Huguenot exile of 1685, Capt. Louis deRosset, and Gabrielle de Gondin.

Of Dr. Armand's childhood nothing has come down to us but that he was a native of France, Province of Narbonne, of the noble house of Ucetia. That he was educated at famous schools of England and Belgium we are assured by the testimony of his medical diploma, still extant. It is dated December 3, 1720, and was received from the University of Basel, Switzerland, one of the celebrated institutions of learning in Europe. The great seal of the University is still attached to it, enclosed in a metal box, and it is signed by the chief authorities of the University—John Conrad, Bishop of Basel and Chancellor of the University, John Buxton, Rector, &c.; is witnessed by John Henry Stechelius, Professor of Anatomy and Botany and Dean of the University, and attested by John George Schatzmaun, Notary. The graduate is styled "the most noble" and "most learned" "Master Armandus deRosset," and it avers that he was judged worthy to be admitted to a degree in Medical Science and to be honored with the title of "Doctor."

My brother-in-law, Maj. Daves, when travelling in Europe a few years ago, turned aside from the route he was pursuing to visit the University of Basel. He was cordially welcomed by the faculty and was gratified to learn that Dr. deRosset's name was still held in honored remembrance and that his thesis was preserved in the Library.

The date of his birth is not known, therefore we can only guess at his age at this time. He married in Switzerland a "Lady of the noble house of Ucetia" (the modern Uzès), who, being of the same family, was probably a kinswoman and, like himself, a Huguenot exile. It is certain that they returned to France after he had graduated, for their two eldest children, Gabrielle and Louis Henry, were born in Montpellier.

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He was called to England probably at the time of his father's death, and in London, December 27, 1726, his youngest son, Moses John, was born.

It is not known what circumstances led Dr. Armand to come to North Carolina. The tide of Huguenot immigration had well-nigh ceased, but many friends of his father from the North of Ireland had come by that time, and may have induced him to join them in the Cape Fear Colony. At any rate, *about* 1735, with his wife and their three children, he arrived in Wilmington, then a small hamlet of some forty families, called New Liverpool.* At once taking his stand as a public-spirited citizen, alive to the best interests of the Province, and educated far beyond the standard of his fellows, he held positions of trust and honor in the town councils, and practiced his healing art for the good of the community with skill and profit. Grants of land were assigned to him in various parts of the Province, and he became a large holder of real estate in the town and county. Being a devoted member of the Church of England, as his father must have been (since no record of his name exists in the Huguenot Church in London), he threw all his energies towards the establishment of St. James' Parish and Church, leading in every effort to build it on a sure foundation for the spiritual welfare of his own and succeeding generations. He and his sons have been well called "the founders of St. James." Truly does Lord Bacon say, "The planting of a new country is among the most heroic works of man."

So, in the strength of the trustful legend of their own escutcheon, "In Domino Confido," these Roses of Provence were transplanted to the sunny shores of Carolina, where the "lovely lady of Ucetia" was to become the mother of many descendants. May they, each in his own life, maintain the noble principles of their forefathers who "sought a better country, even an Heavenly." Emulating their virtues and following their blessed examples, may they ever bear in mind the proud motto so justly theirs by right of inheritance—"NOBLESSE OBLIGE."

Dr. DeRosset fixed his residence in Wilmington on Second street, between Market and Princess; it was afterwards occupied by William Hooper, the signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Madame deRosset was a lady of education and refinement, and of remarkable beauty of person and loveliness of disposition. Her portrait in oil, with others of the family, was among the few treasures brought from France and hung in grand-pa's house many years. Being much defaced by time and travel, they were consigned to the attic waiting the opportunity for restoration, but during

*Wilmington was incorporated in 1739 by Governor Gabriel Johnston and named by him in compliment to his friend and patron, Spencer Compton, Earl of Wilmington.

ANNALS OF THE DEROSSET FAMILY

the troubles of the civil war they finally disappeared. Grand-pa's likeness to *his* grand-father was said to be striking, and the lovely features of "Ucetia" were reproduced in those of her beautiful great-grand-daughter, "Polly" Toomer. In 1746, the brave, sweet wife passed into the rest of Paradise, and was buried in the grounds of her home (there being as yet no church-yard), where years later the partner of the joys and sorrows of her troubled life was laid beside her. Grand-pa has told us that in his childhood he played under an apple tree which shaded their graves. April 13, 1751, five years after the death of his wife, Dr. deRosset married a second time. The lady of his choice was Elizabeth Catherine Bridgen, a native of Bristol, England, and daughter of Samuel Bridgen, of Ludlow Castle, Onslow (then New Hanover) County. She was an intimate friend of the Burgwin family of the same place, and sister of Edward Bridgen, of the firm of Bridgen & Waller, a commercial house of Bristol and London, which in Colonial times had extensive business interests in the Province. She was a woman of superior education and intelligence and great strength of character. Her masculine will dominated that of her good husband, whose fiery temper she ruled in a way that would have been foreign to the nature of the gentle, courteous Lady of Ucetia. She long survived him, and after his death retired to her country seat, "the Chinese Temple," adjoining "the Hermitage." Politically, she was a "Tory." Some of her letters have been preserved, and though they have no bearing upon our family history are worthy of being recorded here as interesting pen and ink sketches of Colonial life in the time of the passing of the Royal Government.

An anecdote of this lady I remember hearing is this: She had a remarkably fine figure, but was very homely of feature. One day walking on the street, her stately mien attracted the attention of a drunken sailor, who for some distance staggered after her, with many demonstrations of admiration, until, as she entered a store and for a moment turned, the spell was broken and he hiccupped, "You were an angel to follow, but you are a devil to face." Imagine the irate lady's disgust and indignation at hearing the unwelcome truth from such a source!

She had no children, and died in 1778 of malignant fever at her summer home on Masonboro Sound.

Colonial Records of North Carolina, Vol. VI., page 335, tell that, in May, 1760, the Council assembled at Newbern appointed the successor of Dr. A. J. deRosset as Justice of the Quorum for New Hanover, "he being deceased."

His three children, Gabrielle, Louis Henry and Moses John, survived him.

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GABRIELLE (DEROSSET) DUBOIS.

1722*-1755.

Gabrielle, only daughter of Armand J. deRosset, M. D., was born in Montpellier, France, in 1722,* and died in Wilmington, N. C., March 29, 1755. She m. November 24, 1741, John duBois, 1707-1767 (his second wife).

duBois and Walker.

The *duBois* family were Huguenots of Rochelle, France, who fled at the time of the Massacre of St. Bartholomew (1572) to Holland, when Domine Petrus duBois was a clergyman of Amsterdam. His son, Gualthemus (Walter) duBois, b. in Stief-Keerk, July 20th, 1671, was called to the pastorate of the Reformed Church in New York in 1699, and died there at the age of eighty years, in October, 1751. Known as "the old Domine," he was so greatly beloved and so universally respected that he is said to have been more like a Bishop among the Dutch churches of his day than the Pastor of a single congregation. He married Helena vonBaal, and had, among other children (who left no known issue), Johannes or John, who m., as stated above, November 24, 1741, Gabrielle deRosset. They had five children, of whom (1) Magdalene, (2) Louis and (3) Moses, died in infancy, (4) Armand John, m. Magaret, daughter of his uncle, Isaac duBois, and died without issue. He and his wife are interred in the cemetery at Newburg, N. Y. The fifth child, Magdalene Margaret duBois, b. February 19, 1755, d. November, 1827, m. January, 1770, Capt. James Walker (1742-1808), third son of Robert and Ann Walker.

The families of deRosset and Walker are closely allied by repeated intermarriages through successive generations, resulting in ties of kinship and affection to the present day.

Robert Walker, of Portaferry, Ireland, was a near kinsman of Rev. George Walker, "the fighting parson of Londonderry," who was killed at the battle of the Boyne (1690).

Robert m. Ann Montgomery Shearer, of the Montgomery family of Mt. Alexander, and in 1738, with his wife, two sons and numerous retainers, emigrated to Wilmington, North Carolina. He was a prominent citizen, held the office of Lord High Sheriff of New Hanover County (then a large tract of country), was Justice of the Court of Appeals, &c., &c.

His children, born in Ireland, were: (1) William Montgomery, a citizen of high repute and honor in the community, and (2) John, who m. in 1762, Mary,

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daughter of William and Margaret Espey Lord. He was her fourth husband and the father of her six children—among whom were Mary (Mrs. Vance) and Ann (Mrs. McDonald), from whom are descended many of our most valued kinspeople. Mrs. Walker m. a fifth time, George Meek, lived to a good old age, and is remembered as “old Aunt Meek.” (3) Margaret Walker (1728-1785) m. in 1755, Louis Henry deRosset, King’s Councillor—they had no issue. (4) Ann Walker (1740-1) m. May 6, 1773, John Quince and had issue among others Mary, who m. Col. Archibald F. McNeill. (5) James Walker (1742-1808) m. January 18, 1770, Magdalene Margaret, dau. of John and Gabrielle (deRosset) duBois. Issue (1) James W. (1770-1838) m. Mary Jane Toomer, (2) Harriet (1784-1815) m. Edwin Jay Osborne, (3) Louise M. (1788-1855) m. Gen. Joseph G. Swift, U. S. A., (4) Julius Henry (1793-1827) m. Mary W. McNeill.

FRAGMENTS OF OLD LETTERS OF MRS. ELIZ. CATH. DEROSSET TO HER FRIEND
AND NEIGHBOR, MR. JOHN BURGWIN, OF “THE HERMITAGE,” THEN IN
ENGLAND FOR HIS HEALTH.

CHINESE TEMPLE,* Aug. 25th, 1775.

I wrote you the other day by one Capt. Arthur. He intended sailing for London; but Mr. Hogg sent him to Plymouth. I gave him a letter and packet for my brother. I enclosed your letter (open) to Mr. B. and begged him to direct it to you wherever you were—in London, Bristol or Bath. Whither the man has gone I cannot say, as I think he had not a fair wind. I wrote to no one else but you and my brother, but by this conveyance I shall write to everybody, as the Lord only knows when an opportunity will be given again & it seems to me I am taking my last leave of you all.

Mr. Grayham† has got the fever and ague, but is now taking bark—like Mr. Burguin himself! How does the lame leg do? Is it easy? is it strong? is it so civil as to let you bear any weight upon it? is it glad it is in the “great Beehive?”

We have very little sickness as yet among us & no deaths. Mr. John Quince it is generally believed has a grave-yard cough, and will soon go the way of all flesh. I think he has been going the last fifteen years! The Court of Admiralty I mentioned in my last was held at Brunswick—out at the Fort‡. The man gave £300 for his vessel—the thing was too plain to make a dispute.

The Gov.§ is still on board the Man-of-War, & Mr. Hasell, his Lieut., sticks by him. They have intercepted many of his letters & memorials sent about to induce the back-country people to take up arms. But his conduct, it is said, has been so extraordinary that it has united the people & had a quite different effect from what he intended; & all the Companies that were at variance with one another now muster together & are very friendly—or very deceitful. The Artillery Co. joined the Independents & they perform their exercises together—this is what the gentlemen tell me, & I must always depend on some of them for intelligence.

Capt. McLaine (who, by the way, is an ensign) is going to carry his wife & himself up the N. West. He speaks such things as are disagreeable to the people & his friends, I believe, wish

*Mrs. deRosset’s country seat, eight miles N. of Wilmington, adjoining the Hermitage.

†Mr. Grayham was Mr. Burguin’s plantation manager.

‡Fort Johnston, at the mouth of the Cape Fear—Smithville then, but now Southport.

§Martin.



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him gone. Mr. Hogg tells me the people of Bogue did not use him ill, only some fellows on the road were impertinent to him. I don't know if you will thank me for these scraps of intelligence, but, I would if I were in your place. * * * It is thought Mr. Nelson's suit at Point Pleasant will end in matrimony—by his frequent stay there. For, as Bevill (in "the Constant Lover") says "a denial is a favor every man may pretend to, & if a Lady would do harm to herself, she should never keep a gentleman in suspense, if she knows she can't like him." As Miss ——— appears to be a sweet innocent young creature, I think she must seem to encourage when she disapproves, and *he* is too sensible to trifle away his time without some approbation. In general people in love look mighty silly, but I do assure you Mr. Nelson is more chatty and agreeable than ever—even before his Mistress! I should not wonder if Fanny loved him. Do you remember how you looked when *you* were in love? Nay, do not give such a sigh or I will never speak to you again of the Ladies of Cedar Grove—they are all well—as much yours as ever, even the little Fanny.** Though they are still in town, & I believe have no great news, I do not like just now to be so far from the seat of intelligence—there everything is talked of—there everything is first known—and they would only be unhappy in a solitude where they could neither hear nor see what's doing.**

'Tis thought Capt. Collet is gone in his (illegible) to bring in soldiers and that Brunswick will be there place of destination, & that on his arrival the Gov. will set up his Standard there. That will be the first fruit of burning the Fort. The 2nd Chapter I suppose will be something of the same kind, but as yet it is in embryo. This is publicly talked of, & some things about it have transpired. Then we shall see who & who's together—whether its rain or fine weather!

We have prodigious crops of wheat this year,—better never known in the memory of man. The corn also will be very fine if these deluges of rain do not spoil it. Give my love to the two little boys if you are near them.†† * * *

Mr. John Boyd—Adam Boyd's brother—talks of becoming a resident of this place, if these American affairs be settled—he goes to Plymouth—but talks of going to London himself—he is a sensible man. * * *

They have made an addition of twenty men to the town watch and yard—not of men that are *paid* but *gentlemen* & tradesmen. The weather has been very bad and some of them grumble a little, but still they do it! You can't conceive how quiet everything is in the night—no robbing of stores—every negro at home in his bed & not half the drunkenness there used to be. "So-far-so-good!" * * * Mrs. Tom Hooper bro't to bed and her child dead. Mrs. Jack Walker has been carried to Mr. Harnett's house by Dr. Geckie. Mr. Lord of Brunswick talks of taking that just left by Mrs. Walker. Indeed most of the Brunswick people, they say, talk of coming up here soon, if the soldiers come in with Collett. Lord knows what will become of us! Mrs. Humphrey has her health extremely well. Mr. H. says but little, but I believe makes it up with *thinking*. People can't be hanged for *that* you know. Old "Father Time" however will discover every body's thoughts. I beg of you to eat some fine English peaches for me this summer, if it be not too late—and then tell me if they are not as good as the American. 'Tis a fruit I can't give up!

If you should see a remarkable old lady of the name of Willoughby in Bristol—a widow—please present her my best respects. My own sister will be quite out of your way. She lives in Worcestershire. I dare say you, with your lame leg, will not think of going there. * * * May God Almighty hold you in His true keeping prays

Yr. afft. friend & Sir, yr. obt. serv't.,

ELIZ. CATH. DE ROSSET.

**The Waddell family.

††Gen. Hugh Waddell's orphan sons, wards of Mr. Burguin, sent to England to be educated.

ANNALS OF THE DE ROSSET FAMILY

CHINESE TEMPLE, Sept. 10, 1775.

* * * This, I fear, will be my *very last* for a long time. * * * I ventured some days ago to give Mr. Grayham some advice about your corn fields. You must know that a violent storm ushered in the month of Sept. it lasted a whole night & great part of next day. It began in the east and came around to N. E. with great violence. The fine promising crops of corn are all down within half a foot of the ground. Now as my experience has taught me that the weight of the top helps greatly to bend it down, I advised Mr. G. to cut them off & told him that the corn would soon right itself. He said that fodder he had got was ruined & the Hermitage was half under water—the bridges all carried off and he was obliged to go to Castle Haynes by water—the roads everywhere are almost impassable. This storm was a great hindrance to vessels loading & they are not to be brought up again—petiaugers sinking and running on shore—three poor sailors drowned—no negroes lost though many in danger. * * *

The Committee talked of permitting the shipping Monday & Tuesday to finish their loading because they shant work Sunday—it being the 10th! Who more religious than our Wilmington folk! Mr. Hayes goes to the W. Indies—will remain there till he is permitted to return. * * *

Perhaps you will be surprised to hear Mr. Hogg is in England. He was one of your “non-conformed to the times”—& so made off. He first attempted it at Bogue, but they would not let him go. He then came home, mustered with the rest upon the hill, but took his opportunity when Capt. Arthur was ready, to go. 'Tis said he carries the Governor's despatches.

I begin to think your lame leg wasn't so unlucky just now. Had you been here you must have declared yourself of one party or the other, you must have taken your turn on the watch; and you must have mustered. Your property would have been very insecure—as it is the case is otherwise. You are one of your (?) now. You cannot confess to anything because you are incapable. No one will be so cruel as to harm the property of an infirm man, who was drove home by a dreadful accident, to get cured. I think I could plead very well in a case like yours. My gouty foot is beter, & presents its compliments to your lame one. Would you change complaints with me? Col. Howe* says he would not.

All the world is at Hillsboro and nothing they have done has yet transpired. I can give you no information. 'Tis thought they intend to raise 2000 men upon pay, & you will come in for your quota of the expense tho' in England—and so must poor I, thugh their laws have already taken from me £96 pr. annum in the one article of cooperage, besides the loss they will occasion in the hire of my other servants, which will lessen as the distress of the place increases, & I shall have no resource of any kind. Still I have resolution to bring my mind to my interests, if they will but leave me the little house over my head and not frighten me out of my senses. * * * Things must go a great way before I fly my own house, as I presume the moment I do so it might be pillaged.

I forgot to tell you in its place as I designed, that Mr. Hogg has been up again to town & has wrote a very genteel letter to Mr. Hooper. He has also left a hundred lbs. sterling for the use of the public. Mr. Hogg is a very clever gentleman & may now carry as many despatches as he pleases. And now let me whisper in your ear;—it is a matter of wonder that Mr. Burguin had not done some such thing before *he* left, or left orders to have it done. I assure you this was no bad policy in Mr. Hogg—it will most effectually secure his property, and retrieve what he has lost with the public. Mr. Tom Hooper has lost his wife—he has come to live in my neighborhood at Mr. John Moore's. Mrs. George of that name is enciente again!

Your friends at the Lodge are very well—but so distant I never see them, now and then the Dr. calls, chats, & drinks small beer with me. Poor London looks mighty down upon the times—but don't speak. * * * * *

Yours, &c.,

E. C. DE ROSSET.

Mr. J. Burguin, London.

*General Robert Howe, whose home was burned by the British.

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Fragment undated.

The troubles arising from the "war of the Regulators" had become very alarming and Mr. Burguin had induced Mrs. deRosset to leave the solitude of her own house & take refuge at the Hermitage. She writes him thus:

* * * "Such great events have certainly the hand of God in them, to bring about His own wise determination. I firmly believe that happen what will, all is designed by God's good providence for the benefit of the *whole* in some future age of the world, tho' at present injurious to the individual. And what am I, or what my Father's house that I should be exempt from suffering? I stand or fall with the Hermitage so far as I can judge of myself. So help me God! But indeed I am a coward—I never knew how much of one before this trial. I never wished to be a man before last month. Dr. Cobham wishes to be a woman. Had it not been for my cowardice I would have gone straight to Castle Haynes to live, but a thousand fears arose from the thought of being alone in the Country. The other day 200 Regulators—as they style them—came down as far as Beauford's Bridge in order to make the merchants & in particular Jack Moore, sell their goods cheaper. Mr. Moore went to meet them, conferred with them & I suppose pacified them—they returned home again. I assure you these are the folks I stand most in dread of. I hear that the County has come to a resolution, that if the Governor, the Men-of-War, or the King's troops destroy houses, towns or private property & spare the effects of the King's officers & servants, not a house (of the Royalists) shall be left standing. So perhaps I shall have the fate of the fish that jumped out of the frying pan into the fire! * * * Mr. Tom Hooper went to Scotland in the ship with Miss Shaw & Miss Rutherford on his way to England.

What a strange medley of a letter is mine! 'Tis such a pitch-patch of stuff that it resembles either an olio or a haggis. Call it what you please.

I have a perfect apothecary's shop in your closet. Mr. Grayham says I shall be Doctor and he my mate. So if your negroes are not all killed between us, it will not be our fault. He wished to give Mrs. Grayham an *honorable* post *under us* but I could not think of degrading a lady who has been so extremely civil to me—besides she is much too tall for such an office. Mr. G. is so good as to let me use my own linen, & 'tis washed by my own servants. Though I don't break your family rules I *drink a dish of Tea in my own chamber every morning*. "Tea!" say you, "do you have Tea?" Yes, truly I do! You must know Sir, that whether from sympathy with the times, or not—I can't say—but certainly on the 10th Sept. I was taken very sick & indeed not only looked so, but was very ill. I thought if I could drink tea, I should recover much sooner, but as I did not choose to do this in private, I asked leave of the Committee & they gave me a very gracious permission "in consideration of my age & infirmities." * * *

If I keep house, it will hurt me excessively to live in such a hospitable neighborhood as this & not be able to ask them to take a dinner with me."

To Mr. John Burguin, London.

Yrs. &c.,

E. C. DEROSSET.